

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner persists in this requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file a Divisional application at a later time, if so desired.

In the event there are any outstanding matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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